PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

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LECTURE XXXVII.

THE BATTLE FOR BRITAIN No. II.

FIRST PHASE. German victories in the early part of the war were largely attributed to the skilful co-ordination of Hitler's *Luftwaffe*, with his mechanised ground forces. The first battle for BRITAIN went against Hitler definitely, because the German tanks could not ride the mighty main, because the dive bombers of his *Luftwaffe* had no tanks to co-operate with, and because the doughty English knights of the Air shot down about three thousand of the German planes and sent the rest scurrying home. The mighty *Luftwaffe's* boast of sweeping the English planes from the sky proved an empty one, and German planes do not latterly sail in their pride of hundreds, but dart in and out of the clouds in singles and pairs, and making no attempt at precision, hastily jettisoning their bombs make off across the Channel for home!

The first phase of the second battle has just now begun and to all intents and purposes BRITAIN has one foe the less to cope with. The Italian African Empire is almost extinct; Fascism in ITALY is a waning force; and the Italian fleet which once wore an air of respectability because of the number and speed of its ships, has already

lost half its strength. The Mediterranean was never an Italian Lake, and will never become one so long as the British Navy guard its entrances, and maintain it as the public gangway between the Pacific and the Atlantic. So it is with Hitler and GERMANY that we are now chiefly concerned.

Hitler and his men believe in *Blitzkriegs*. That means an intensive, concentrated stroke delivered with all possible might at a chosen objective. It means a deliberate limitation of the time and space factor in favour of an assault in unlimited force. This, be it noted, was the method that failed against ENGLAND in the winter of 1940.

What are Hitler's present tactics? His loudly proclaimed "Spring offensive" for 1941 appears to recognise that ENGLAND is still the mistress of the Seas, and that therefore his first aim must be to deliver a *Blitzkrieg* against the Royal Navy. Now we have just pointed out that his only successful *Blitzkrieg* hitherto was due to a *combination* of arms. Yet in spite of the exhaustive research investigations of military, naval, and aerial strategists, Hitler has not been able to devise for naval *Blitzkrieg* anything corresponding to the co-operation of the tanks and the aeroplanes on land. Admiral Raeder and the General Staff of the German Navy have not been able to conceive of any effective weapons of attack from both the elements—sea and air, more effective than the combination of U-boats, and E-boats, with bombers.

The limitation of such weapons for an effective offensive are obvious. U-Boats may be the curse of merchant shipping, but the chances of their successfully attacking the regular vessels of the Navy are few, regard being had to the intense and ceaseless vigil that the British Navy and Air Force keep over the vast expanse of the seas. As to E-Boats they can hardly affect any major naval battle on the high seas; they are only an auxiliary arm to be worked from a near base. Only men-of-war can meet men-of-war in the wild weather and trackless wastes of the high seas.

Nor can bombers of the *Luftwaffe* be really effective weapons of attack against the Navy on the high seas. The first reason is that unlike the British, they lack co-operation from sea-craft, without which no aerial attack could become a *Blitzkrieg*. Secondly therefore they

have to operate from far distant bases, and the limitations which great distances and limits of fuel-carrying place upon aircraft must prevent their becoming a really effective offensive weapon.

GERMANY, you see, has no aircraft carriers to become air-bases on the high seas for their aeroplanes in action, and enemy airplanes have not yet engaged the Royal Navy in any action of long duration. The only exception—and it is not a real exception—was the bombing action in the Mediterranean 'narrows', but then it must be remembered that during the seven hour battle between the German bombers and the Mediterranean Fleet of the Royal Navy, the former operated from the adjacent air-base of CATANIA in SICILY. This action, by the way, appears to have proved that in an action between seacraft and aircraft, the chances of the latter destroying ships of war are poor, even though the latter furnish a broad and slow-moving target, such as the aircraft carrier—the "*Ark Royal*." We repeat therefore that GERMANY cannot bring off a naval *Blitzkrieg* unless she has her own men-of-war and air-craft carriers. It appears, therefore, that at least, a part of the much-vaunted spring offensive of Hitler, may prove to be a great intensification of the U-Boat campaign against the food and munition transports on their way to BRITAIN, and by operating as convoy-raiders the only two battleships he possesses, the *Gneisnau* and the *Scharnhorst*, though they must be careful not to offer an opportunity for a major naval engagement with Britain's capital ships. The Royal Navy is doubtless taking good care of these two German battleships for, two days back, we learnt that the 'surface raiders' of the Atlantic, have been identified as the two German vessels we have mentioned. It is part of the Admiralty's policy not to publish details; so we may well hear more news soon of those two German vessels, and hope and pray that it will be that they have been sent to the bottom of the sea!

Nevertheless, this will not be the whole story. This paper does not concern itself with other possible theatres of war, AFRICA, the BALKANS, the LEVANT—even though Hitler may try to create any or all of these as part of his Battle for BRITAIN. What we are concerned with now is the possibility of a great assault on the BRITISH ISLES, and we are convinced that for this purpose every ship, every base, every man and every plane that Hitler can spare, will be made use of in an attempt on BRITAIN's very shores. "Terrain" is an out of date word. When sea, land and

air are full of warring hosts, when the plain issue is the freedom of Man's body, mind and soul, or his slavery, only a mighty poet could adequately express the sublime issues of this sublime occasion.

Yet we face it in good heart. BRITAIN stands, scarred but undaunted, and more powerful than when she first engaged in the great struggle. The UNITED STATES, long hesitant, are now with her and behind her. She has had time to organise her fullest might, in men, in munitions, in ships, and above all, in aircraft. The R. A F. with its bombers of 3,500 mile range can now undertake an aerial "sweep" which leaves beyond them only South AMERICA and the South Atlantic, the Siberian province of RUSSIA or the North Pacific between North AMERICA and ASIA. With the advent of the bombers of 6,000 mile range the potential range of their reconnaissances and raids is immense. Territories or oceans beyond their sweep can be brought within it by aircraft carriers. New types of aircraft of greater endurance, longer range, more attacking power and larger bomb-loading capacity have been brought into play. A few days ago Sir A. Sinclair referred to the heavier arming and powering of the already famous *Hampdens*. He also referred to the new types of faster and heavier bombers such as the *Manchester*, the *Stirling* and *Halifax* bombers. From her now sworn ally, GREAT BRITAIN has at her call the latest type of American bomber, the *Douglas Boston 19*, which is capable of a non-stop flight *across the Atlantic and back*, carrying 18 tons of high explosives. Technical apparatus which will enable the aeroplanes to hunt the submarine more accurately is being steadily improved. British flying boats and destroyers are already scouring the seas for the long narrow white streak that betrays the U-boat, and the destruction of three of them last Monday, an event hailed by the Prime Minister as an event of major importance, is an omen of fresh successes.

As to larger enemy craft, the fact that the '*Gneisnau*' and the '*Scharnhorst*' are operating as far west from their bases as the 42nd meridian, seems to show that Hitler considers this battle of the Atlantic as the final throw of the dice. It certainly seems to prove that Hitler, with the rest of the world, feels that the recent passing of the famous 'Help BRITAIN Bill' by the American Senate must change the course of the war. So lest it finally bring victory to BRITAIN, he has decided to clinch the issue by sending to sea his only two battleships, which be it

remembered, can live at sea for only 3 weeks without refuelling—time enough for the Admiralty to get their bearings—in an attempt to intercept American supply ships, though by this measure he stands to lose all.

Since Hitler sets such great store by his submarines, let us spend a minute examing their potentialities. We have said before that the recent sinking of the three U-boats in a day was an event of major importance. The fact is that the loss of one U-boat means the loss of a highly *complicated piece of machinery*, to replace which takes several months and even more important, it means the loss of the crew. Moreover, even if you train them into positive experts, they cannot easily and efficiently handle a newly built submarine. They have got to have time to learn their ship. It is an established fact that the failure of the German submarine campaign in 1918 was largely due to the loss of first class personnel, and the slow demoralisation resulting therefrom. Nevertheless, the multiplication of bases which the Germans derived from their conquest of NORWAY, the LOW COUNTRIES and FRANCE, the furious speed at which they have been building these posts, despite the attentions of the R. A. F. and the toll of victims they can claim, makes them a very formidable enemy.

All possible steps have been adopted by BRITAIN to hunt down these abominable things. If only their objectives were legitimate, under International Law, not even BRITAIN would complain, but used as they frequently are against unarmed merchant vessels, with accompanying bombers to machine-gun the helpless crew, as they struggle against the waves in mid-stream, they constitute a form of barbarity unknown to history in its most barbarous times, and make many an International statesman wish that neither they, nor bombing aeroplanes had ever been invented.

It is against this damnable menace that BRITAIN has had to devise, often at the cost of weakening her fleets elsewhere, the present convoy system. It is working very efficiently, but it is next to impossible to provide a complete escort for all vessels at all times. Hence there is almost always bound to be *some* prey for the lurking U-boats; the German surface raiders and the hovering sea-planes. But in British and American yards, new vessels are being speedily built to replace the lost ones. In the last year the British ship-building

yards have actually built 480 new ships, while the American programme recently entered provides for another 400 at least. Protective forces, too, are being largely increased. Destroyers by the score are being handed over by the U. S. A. to the British Admiralty. And we recently learn that opinion in the U. S. A. feels that American supplies must be escorted by American warships, though this final admission of actual belligerency against Nazidom still awaits statutory sanction. Finally we should note a recent appointment which shows that BRITAIN regards this new threat of Hitler's as one to be dealt with on its merits. The whole Atlantic protection campaign is now under a single command, for a broadcast of the 22nd March announced that Admiral Sir Percy Noble has been appointed 'Commander of the Western Approaches.' Sir Percy has a considerable reputation in naval circles as a naval strategist, and this news added to certain cryptic references to new aerodromes to protect those same 'western approaches', makes it clear that BRITAIN has her eyes 'wide open.'

We seem to have dwelt rather disproportionately with the defensive side of the 'Battle for BRITAIN II.' Time must be our excuse You only have to recall the recent and highly successful British attack on the LOFOTEN Islands last week, on the FRISIAN Islands this week, the heavy bombing of OSTEND and ROTTERDAM and the submarine base of L' ORIENT for the third night in succession in the last few days, and the almost unceasing battering of HAMBURG and BREMEN from the air, to realise that the spirit of the offensive is also and perhaps primarily abroad in BRITAIN. A grand hour is at hand, the hour when a righteous cause, the cause of God, must triumph over the evil cause, the cause of Satan. The darkness before dawn is very intense. The best prayer that we can say to God to-day is that of the famous soldier, Sir Jacob Astley, who before the battle of NASEBY prayed ;

> "Oh God, I shall be too busy this day to remember Thee ;
>
> But do not Thou forget me."

APPENDIX.

SALUTE TO GREECE.

March 25, 1941.

THERE are two words which have lost much of their virtue in this century. They are LIBERTY and HONOUR. But there is a country which in the past six months has restored to those words all their beauty, nobility and significance. The name of that country is GREECE.

When you come to think of it, only ancient and once mighty peoples—or their immediate descendents—know, prize above jewels, and display the inner sacredness of those ideals. *Parvenu* nations, the world over, adopt them, flaunt them, betray them and jettison them, according as episodic waves of thought or expectations of material gain affect their immediate outlook. A hundred and fifty years ago, how many of the nations of EUROPE knew the meaning of Liberty? GERMANY was not a nation; ITALY was not a nation; and since they became nations, they have had little truck with liberty, the former never, and the latter for a paltry fifty years—only to renounce it!. (As to Honour, we hesitate to write the word in the same sentence with their names.) What did Liberty mean to RUSSIA, to SPAIN, to AUSTRIA, to BULGARIA, to SWEDEN? "Strikes, riots and civil commotion", in its name—the fingers of one or other sympathetic or antagonistic power in its pie—and ultimate submission to expediency.

But to a few, a very few, European nations LIBERTY and HONOUR have long been abstractions not of expediency, but of sacred, inviolable trust. That is to say that the people of those nations would starkly prefer to DIE rather than to live under conditions where those ideals were compromised BRITAIN is one, SWITZERLAND may be one, FRANCE—alas—was one, and one is GREECE.

Two and a half milleniums ago, the Greeks prized Liberty and Honour as they prized the Arts and the Military Virtues. The Persians

learnt this then to their cost, as the Turks learnt it exactly a hundred and twenty years ago, and the Italians are learning it to-day. To the Greek, the words are not newspaper clichés, they are living, inviolable ideals, worth surprising a sceptical world with, worth fighting for, worth dying for.

Hitler did not think, Mussolini did not think—who, in this latter materialistic age *would* think—that *any* nation would seriously consider a mere impalpable ideal worth fighting for. People, surely, only fight nowadays for territory or trade or mere POWER!

With *nothing*—in this sense—to win, and with *everything*—in this sense—to lose, a miniature David stood forth against an exaggerated Goliath, with other even more formidable Sons of Anak to back him up. Straight and true flew his pebble, and wondering hosts watched the giant totter and fall. And David, as ogreish allies advance to avenge him, because he fights for Liberty and Honour, calmly fits another missile to his sling and awaits the ghastly issue.

> "The blackbird sings to him, 'Brother, brother,
> If this be the last song you shall sing,
> Sing well, for you may not sing another,
> Brother, sing!'"

— SALUTE TO GREECE! —

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

20—3—41 to 26—3—41.

THE TRAGEDY OF YUGO-SLAVIA.

In the expressive language of the *Madras Mail* the Serbs have over-night become serfs and the Slavs slaves. Under German pressure, diplomatic, economic and military, and despite the opposition of a whole people and their army, a handful of politicians have sold the independence of YUGO-SLAVIA to the Axis. On the 25th her Ministers signed the Three-Power Pact at VIENNA. In order to conceal her degradation, she has been placed in a category of her own among the Axis-satellites, and the agreement has been concluded in two parts—one, explicit and public, assuring her sovereignty and integrity, and the other, secret, with a concession for GERMANY to carry war material over the Yugo-Slavian Railway but not troops. YUGO-SLAVIA must fall into line with the Axis in matters economic, but will be exempted from the military clauses of the Tripartite Pact. While this may now appear a concession to Yugo-Slavian sentiment there is no knowing where the Pact will end. Axis alliance has uniformly led to enslavement.

Warnings were not wanting to prevent YUGO-SLAVIA from taking the fatal step. BRITAIN to whom she owes so much of her present position sent in a last minute warning through Sir Ronald Campbell, British Minister at BELGRADE. Three Yugo-Slav Ministers resigned in protest and practically the whole country, barring a few Axis-financed Croats objected. After the event the whole State is seething with discontent. Army and Church leaders, officers, leaders, peasants and townsmen have made a nation-wide demonstration. The usual aftermath has come. BELGRADE is guarded by the Police, and the Germans threaten to interfere if the disorders do not subside. [According to the latest news a bloodless military *Coup d'état* took place at BELGRADE on Thursday the 27th March, within 48 hours of the signing of the Pact, as a result of which the boy King Peter has taken over the administration and appointed General Simovitch of the Air Forces as his Minister. M. Tsvetkovitch and the Ministers who signed the Axis Pact, have been

arrested and the Regent, Prince Paul, has fled the country. AMERICA and BRITAIN are prepared to recognise the new Government. Yugo-Slavia's national honour has been vindicated, and the Pact may go—where it should—that is, to the waste-paper basket. Mr. Churchill has promised the new Government all possible aid and succour.]

It is refreshing to turn from this unhappy tale of treachery and misery to the celebration of Independence by GREECE on the very same day YUGO-SLAVIA signed away her independence, without even the proverbial mess of pottage in return, and to the declaration of her Prime Minister of GREECE's resolve to face and overcome the new German threat appearing on the horizon. On this occasion Mr. Churchill also reminded the world how just a hundred and twenty years ago BRITAIN had assisted GREECE to win her independence. The same epic fight had now recurred, with the same old comradeship, 'against greater odds, but with equal courage and with no less certainty of success.'

Another bright patch in the Balkan situation is the announcement of an agreement between TURKEY and the SOVIET, in which they promise reciprocally complete understanding and neutrality in the event of any attack on either party. So far as TURKEY is concerned, it ensures the safety of her eastern frontier.

THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC.

In a desperate attempt to interrupt British communications with AMERICA, GERMANY has risked her own navy and sent out her cruisers, such as the *Scharnhorst* and the *Gneisnau* as far as about two-thirds of the distance to AMERICA, and is also attacking shipping round the British coast. The menace is being met with all the weapons that science can devise. Heavy battleships of the *Malaya* and *Nelson* class are chasing the Nazi raiders on the sea. Reports have already been received of the destruction of three enemy E-Boats. In the week ending March 15, 44 German aircraft were shot down round the British coast. As Air Commodore Goddard said, the Germans are also getting a dose of their own medicine. The battle of the Atlantic has been carried into the enemy's country. LORIENT has had its 48th and 49th Air-raids during the week.

In the Mediterranean, the British Navy continues its great task of preventing supplies from reaching AFRICA, and ALBANIA, and of assuring safe passage to Allied convoys.

The raid on the LOFOTENS has evidently caused a flutter, judged from the haste with which the enemy is garrisoning the numerous islands on the Norwegian coast.

WAR IN AFRICA.

Libya.—The fall of JARA BUB.

JARA BUB has been taken after some delay necessitated by the sacred nature of the place, but not due to any prolonged resistance from the enemy. In fact, it fell to the first attack by the Imperial forces, which were fewer in number than the defending garrison.

Somaliland.—The capture of HARGEISA.

The recapture of BERBERA in British SOMALILAND, which was reported last week, furnishes another example of the perfect co-operation of the three services on land, sea and air. The Air Force was the first to reconnoitre and bomb BERBERA, the fleet followed with a bombardment and finally the army occupied the place.

With the fall of BERBERA, the conquest of the British and Italian SOMALILANDS is practically over, and only mopping-up operations remain, and a few more places have to be captured.

During the week, HARGEISA in the British SOMALILAND—Abyssinian border was taken and ZEILLA fell. The Sultanate of MIJERTIN is in revolt.

Abyssinia.—The fall of JIG-JIGA, NEGHELLI and HARAR.

JIG-JIGA and NEGHELLI have been captured and the Imperial forces having crossed the Marda pass are advancing towards HARAR. According to the latest radio news HARAR also has fallen.

Lord Croft, Under-Secretary for War, revealed to the House of Lords on the 25th how Britisn troops from Home were sent out to save EGYPT, at a time when BRITAIN herself was threatened with invasion. 'It was the longest distance ever covered by an army in history to reach a major theatre of war in submarine-infested seas.' Referring to the East African campaign he said :—

'Imagine a vast clock, of 4,300 miles in circumference, with the centre 200 miles South-east of ADDIS ABABA, with lightning blows struck

from 11, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4 and last week 2 o' clock and you get a true picture.'

Eritrea.—CHEREN has fallen.

ALBANIA.

Foiled in his opening spring offensive in ALBANIA, Mussolini has returned to ITALY, a broken man. He is reported to be suffering from a nervous disorder, unable to sleep and raging like a mad man. He still continues to fling his troops into the fray. Another offensive since started in the region of the Aoos river has again ignobly failed.

UNOCCUPIED FRANCE.

On the 19th of this month, Petain broadcast from GRENOBLE lamenting shortage of food for his people, and appealing to AMERICA for help. AMERICA has sent two ship-loads of flour as a gift, and BRITAIN has also allowed them free-passage to show her sympathy. But the fact remains that unoccupied FRANCE has become both the arsenal and granary of GERMANY. LYONS, for example, makes silk for the German parachutes and 80 per cent of the food landed at MARSEILLES goes to GERMANY.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES.

EUROPE is self-sufficient but it is the Nazi that plunders it. For instance, NORWAY is deprived of its fish, DENMARK of its livestock, HOLLAND of its butter and FRANCE of cereals, fruit, vegetables, and oil from her African possessions.

The annual depredations in cash from these countries are as follows :—

		£.	£.		
NORWAY	...	68,000,000 at	25	per head of population.	
DENMARK	...	26,000,000 at	8	,,	,,
BELGIUM	...	75,000,000 at	8	,,	,,
HOLLAND	...	54,000,000 at	8	,,	,,
FRANCE	...	827,000,000 at	20	,,	,,

It will be seen that NORWAY is the heaviest-taxed of all. In addition, each of the countries is compelled to sell its produce to GERMANY taking payment (?) in blocked paper marks.

AMERICA.

A sum of 7,000 million dollars has been sanctioned to implement the Lease and Lend Act. Plans to hand over 50 merchant-men immediately, and to construct 400 more for BRITAIN, are nearing completion.

A United States Naval squadron called at SYDNEY and BRISBANE during the week in token of friendship.

Twenty strikes, including 8 in Armament factories have occurred in the U. S. A. recently. Mr. Martin Dies, Head of the Commission of Un-American activities, suspects Communism in the case of the strike in the Bethlehem Steel Company's factory.

Mr. Winant, American Ambassador in LONDON, speaking for the first time publicly since his arrival in BRITAIN, said that while Nazism was running amok, BRITAIN had manned the bridge-heads of humanity's hopes. In this struggle, however, she was not alone. AMERICA had gone into action. All the American workers in factory, ship-yard and the farm were in fact defending the frontiers of freedom.

Speaking at a dinner of the Pilgrim's Society on the 25th Lord Halifax, British Ambassador at WASHINGTON, pointed out that the Lease and Lend Act, while it filled BRITAIN with confidence, struck terror into the Nazi heart, for in the last war it was the entry of AMERICA that tipped the scale in a hitherto even battle. Hitler was scheming to overrun AFRICA and, if he succeeded in the attempt, DAKAR would become a strait from which AMERICA could be attacked even before it had armed in self-defence.

AIR-RAIDS.

PLYMOUTH experienced two fierce raids in one of which 20,000 to 30,000 incendiaries were dropped, and residential quarters, 3 churches, 2 hospitals and 2 cinemas were damaged. The R. A. F.'s targets for the week were LORIENT, BREMEN, WILHELMSHAVEN, COLOGNE, KIEL and EMDEN. BERLIN was attacked twice. During one of them 10,000 incendiaries were dropped on the heart of BERLIN. In view of frequent raids on BERLIN Hitler is rumoured to be planning to remove his Capital to VIENNA. 59,000 children have already been evacuated from HAMBURG alone.

FAR-EAST.

JAPAN claims to have captured KAOAN, HOTSUN and SHANKAO and to have landed troops at Bias Bay and SWATOW. The Chinese are reported to have recaptured KAOSHAN. U. S. A. has sent 40 planes, including 4 flying-fortresses, to CHINA. Mr. Matsuoka, Japanese Foreign Minister, met Molotov and Stalin at Moscow and has arrived at BERLIN.

R. A. F. Raids over Enemy and Enemy-occupied territories.

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
17—3—41. (Monday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
NIGHT :—			
	Docks and Industrial areas in BREMEN and WILHELMSHAVEN.	...	Battered.
	Petrol storage tanks at ROTTERDAM	...	Set on fire.
	EMDEN and **OLDENBURG** ...	No loss.	1 plane.
	A large enemy supply vessel off the FRISIAN Islands.	No loss.	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The aerodrome at HAWASH ...	...	Damaged.
	A train running towards HAWASH ...	...	Forced to stop.
	Support to military operations in ABYSSINIA.	No loss.	...
18—3—41. (Tuesday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Enemy shipping off the DUTCH coast	1 plane.	Direct hits on many.
NIGHT :—			
	Dockyards and the Industrial centre at KIEL.	...	Explosions followed fire.
	Docks and Industrial targets at WILHELMSHAVEN.	...	Many fires started.
	Oil storage tanks at ROTTERDAM ...	...	Set on fire.

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
18—3—41.	(Tuesday)—*cont.*		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE—*cont.*		
	Docks at EMDEN ...	...	...
	A target at TEXEL ...	...	...
	Two aerodromes in HOLLAND ...	No loss.	Damaged.
	ALBANIA.		
	DURAZZO ...	...	Explosions and fires started.
	Italian motor transport north of TEPELENI.	No loss.	Directly hit.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Troops around CHEREN ...	...	Machine-gunned.
	Support to the BRITISH army on all fronts.		
19—3—41.	(Wednesday).		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	NIGHT :—		
	The submarine base at LORIENT ...	...	Very large fires started.
	Communications and the industrial quarter on the East bank of RHINE	...	Buildings demolished Battered.
	Oil storage tanks at ROTTERDAM ...	...	Set on fire.
	3 Aerodromes in the NETHERLANDS	No loss.	Damaged.
	Patrol activity over occupied territo-ties.	1 plane.	...
	ALBANIA.		
	Military objectives and Italian transport columns at TEPELENI.	No loss.	Heavy loss ; fires everywhere.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy positions in the hills around CHEREN.	...	...
	Enemy motor transport on the CHEREN—ASMARA ROAD.		Heavy loss.

Date	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
19—3—41. (Wednesday.)—*cont.*			
	ITALIAN AFRICA—*cont.*		
	Telegraph office, the FIAT works and the Railway Station at ASMARA.	...	...
	DESSIE ...	...	...
	ENEMY Aerodromes in TRIPOLITANIA	...	Damaged.
	The harbour and military stores in TRIPOLI.	... ...	Damage to shipping Several fires started
	Aircraft on the ground at TEMET ...	No loss.	Many damaged.
20—3—41.. (Thursday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	The GERMEN Submarine base at LORIENT	...	Many explosions and fires started.
	A number of German E-boats and a ...	...	...
	GERMAN patrol vessel off the FRISIAN coast.	...	...
	A GERMAN supply ship off NORWAY.	1 plane.	...
	Reconnaissance over occupied ... FRANCE.	...	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Italian troops and positions in and around CHEREN.	...	Heavy loss.
	Motor transport on the road between MISURATA and SIRTE (in TRIPOLITANIA).	...	...
21—3—41. (Friday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	An enemy tanker off the BELGIAN coast.	...	Set on fire.
	Enemy warships and supply vessels off the FRISIAN Islands and in the HELIGOLAND BIGHT.	...	Damaged.

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
21—3—41.	(Friday)—*cont.*		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE—*cont.*		
	Supply ships off the NORWEGIAN coast.	...	Some sunk.
	The Jetty near EGERSUND ...	...	...
	Coastal motor boats and aerodrome buildings in Norway.	No loss.	...
	NIGHT :—		
	The Submarine base at LORIENT ...	...	Explosions and fires started.
	Docks at OSTEND ...	2 planes.	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy positions at CHEREN ...	...	...
	A Railway line near CHEREN ...	...	Damaged.
	Supply depots at ASSAB ...	...	...
	The Railway line between ADDIS ABABA and DIREDAWA.	...	Wrecked.
	The Railway station at DIREDAWA ...	...	...
	3 trains travelling between HAWASH and DIREDAWA.	...	Machine-gunned.
	Motor transport on the road between HAWASH and DIREDAWA.	No loss.	Heavy loss.
	A fuel dump in the BIYO KABOBA area.	...	Set on fire.
	Stores and buildings in a military camp at GONDAR.	No loss.	Several fires started.
	Military objectives at HARAR and DIREDAWA.	...	...
	Transport concentration near HARAR and DIREDAWA.	No loss.	Damaged.
22—3—41.	(Saturday.)		
	ALBANIA.		
	Support to the Greek army in ALBANIA.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
22—3—41.	**(Saturday.)**—*cont.*		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy positions in the CHEREN area.	...	Heavy loss.
	The Railway station at ASMARA ...	...	5 planes.
	Barracks and ware-houses in the GONDAR area.	...	Buildings gutted.
	Railway trains on the JIBUTI— ADDIS ABABA Railway.	...	1 train burnt out.
	Trains at AFDEM and GOTA ...	...	Machine-gunned.
	A large concentration of enemy motor transport between URSO and HAWASH.	...	Hammered out.
	Enemy positions in the MARDA pass.	...	...
23—3—41.	**(Sunday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	GERMAN barracks at QUILBERON port	...	...
	A Submarine base at BRITTANY ...	...	Battered.
	An enemy escort vessel near BREST.	No loss.	Directly hit.
	NIGHT :—		
	Goods yards, factories, main railway stations and other military objectives in BERLIN.	...	BERLIN "a city of flames." Very heavy damage; casualties also heavy.
	Docks at CHERBOURG ...	...	Barracks dive-bombed.
	The Naval base at KIEL ...	...	...
	GERMANY'S principal railway junction and distributing centre at HANOVER.	No loss.	...
	ALBANIA.		
	The Aerodrome and the aircraft on the ground at BERAT.	...	2 planes set on fire and others damaged
	Aerial fight over ALBANIA ...	...	2 planes destroyed; Many damaged.
	An encampment in the TEPELENI area	No loss.	...

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
23—3—41.	**(Sunday)**—*cont.*		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy road and railway communications between DIREDAWA and HAWASH.	...	Damaged.
	A supply train at URSO ...	...	Directly hit.
	Other trains near MIESSO ...	...	Many trucks overturned.
	20 trucks and troops near ADDIS ABABA	2 planes.	Machine-gunned.

Enemy Raids over BRITAIN; BRITISH and ALLIED Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses	R. A. F. losses and results of air bombardment.
18—3—41.	**(Tuesday.)**		
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	Aerial fight over the BRITISH coast.	2 planes.	No loss.
	NIGHT :—		
	LONDON Area ; ...	...	Heavy damage.
	A few towns on the South and North-east coasts.	...	A few people killed.
	British shipping and docks in HULL...	...	Some buildings damaged ; fires started.
19—3—41.	**(Wednesday).**		
	BRITAIN.		
	NIGHT :—		
	LONDON Area ; ...	...	Damage to buildings. Fires started ; casualties not heavy.
	THAMES ESTUARY and South coast.	...	Damage and casualties slight.
20—3—41.	**(Thursday).**		
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	A town in the KENT coast ...	...	Houses damaged.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. losses and results of air bombardment.
20—3—41. (Thursday)—*cont.*			
	BRITAIN—*cont.*		
NIGHT :—			
	PLYMOUTH ...	...	Very heavy raid.
	East ANGLIA and a South-east coastal **town** ; LONDON.	...	Slight damage and a few casualties.
21—3—41. (Friday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	NORFOLK coast and KENT coast ...	...	Slight damage and a few casualties.
NIGHT :—			
	PLYMOUTH ; ...	...	Heavy damage and casualties.
	A town in South-west ENGLAND ...	...	...
	And a few other places in ENGLAND...	...	A few injured.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA ...	...	Driven away.
22—3—41. (Saturday).			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	East ANGLIA ...	...	No damage.
NIGHT :—			
	Slight air activity over a few scattered places in ENGLAND.	...	...
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA ...	1 plane.	3 planes.
23—3—41. (Sunday).			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	A ship off the coast of North SCOTLAND.	No damage.	1 plane.
	South ENGLAND and **a town** in South-west ENGLAND.	...	Slight damage.
NIGHT :—			
	No air activity ...	...	...

Date.	Targets.	Enemy air-craft losses.	R. A. F. losses and results of air bombardment.
23—3—41. (Sunday.)—*cont.*			
	GREECE.		
	An R. A. F. station in Western GREECE. ...		Slight damage and a few casualties.
	GREEK-occupied ALBANIA.		
	Greek positions near the Aoos River. ...		No damage.
24—3—41. (Monday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	South-west ENGLAND and WALES... ...		Slight damage.
	NIGHT :—		
	South-east KENT ...	1 plane.	No damage at all.

SIDE LIGHTS.

Embaras de Richesse. What a thing it is to be popular ! At least that is what certain of our Bureau lecturers must have thought last evening ! It was while we had only one of our two projectors working, which meant only one film-show a night. But so popular are these films in the mofussil that worthies of the village which had a lecture but no film, waylaid our van, and in their thousands, insisted on a second show for themselves, after the outfit had already done their stuff some miles away. Well, well, the good folk are welcome to it, and to every kind of news we can give them about the war, even if our lecturers don't get to bed till mid-night ! But the other projector has arrived now ; henceforward Pudukkottian thirst for news will be the more easily slaked.

* * * * * *

News and News. The late Lord Northcliffe's famous definition of news hardly holds good these days. He said that if a dog bit a man, the fact was of no value to journalists but if a man bit a dog, well then that was news ! Nowadays news is a far more complicated substance, and it's indeed a wise man who knows how to understand the news he reads. Here are some sidelights from a famous journalist who has had to deal with the fount of public information in AMERICA since before the war.

He says there are no fewer than four well-defined kinds of news. The first is just news; the second is news that may only be hinted at; the third is news that is allowed to 'leak' on the understanding that it will be promptly denied; the fourth is what the Americans call "off the record" information given by important men to conferences of journalists, which may neither be stated nor hinted at.

This, of course, is in a country where there is always such a spate of news about EVERY kind of person, occupation, game, deal, murder, aeroplane or divorce, from press, radio, news-reel and speeches, that Americans may be excused for requiring such vivisection of information, as being merely news concerning the news! I don't think our own Press Censorship is, or has the need to be, half so cunning as that!

* * * * * *

Privileged Press. It must be rather fun to be a trusted American journalist. For they ARE trusted, and the writer from whom I quote says that though they often know sensational stuff days ahead of publication not all the Gestapo tortures would make one, of the two hundred odd of them, squeak! He was at a Press Conference presided over by one of Roosevelt's Cabinet the other day. One man put the Chairman an *exceedingly* 'leading' question. A direct reply would have created a first class international sensation. The Big Man turned, more in sorrow than in anger, to his questioner, and remarked simply. "You know damn well the answer is 'yes.' And you also know damn well that I can't say so. Put 'no information'." Thereupon he told the meeting the whole story—which was a good deal better than any sensation in the Press that day, but did not appear for weeks.

"An even better example is SINGAPORE, and the frequently-reported agreement with BRITAIN for pooling Pacific bases. Every well-informed American correspondent believed that the deal had been 'in the bag' for the last three months. Yet when I mentioned it to a high official in the Navy department next day, I gathered that he had vaguely read of SINGAPORE in the papers, but did not quite know where it was!".

* * * * * *

The Bear's Growl. Wouldn't it be interesting to be in the know like this about the BALKANS, for instance? What are we to make of the YUGOSLAVIA puzzle, or what was President Inonu's reply to Hitler's aerial messenger to ANKARA? And that ticking-off which the Soviet administered to BULGARIA? It has had varying interpretations

on most days since it was broadcast, and *some* one must know the truth. I wish I had that American journalist at my elbow! Nevertheless, this particular question is so intriguing that it may be as well to set down some aspects which are more or less patent, and see if we can make sense of them.

German aims in the BALKANS seem at least to be discernible :—

(i) To contain RUSSIA.

(ii) To keep TURKEY neutral.

(iii) To force GREECE to make a separate peace, and so relieve ITALY.

(iv) To augment important supplies to GERMANY by the help of Nazi régimes throughout the BALKANS.

(v) To forestall any possible land offensive there by BRITAIN.

That seems enough to go on with. There may be more ambitious projects after these have been achieved, but tried these must be, first.

As to (i) above, "the Soviet Government cannot share the view that the entry of German troops into BULGARIA will result in further consolidation of peace in the BALKANS"; and they "regard BULGARIA'S action as leading inevitably to the extension of war, and the involvement of BULGARIA herself..............a line of action which the Soviet could give no support whatever."

About it and About. These strictures it should be noted, were widely broadcast in several languages, and certainly received the retort-courteous from Hitler! "If Governments such as the Soviet, not at war with BRITAIN, held different views from those of GERMANY, that was understandable. But it must be equally understood that GERMANY could tolerate no restrictions on any measures she might deem necessary to defeat BRITAIN!"

However much, or little importance, commentators attach to either or both these *démarches*—and they are now some weeks old,—we seem to be entitled to deduce that the Hindustani phrase "*dekegga*" fairly describes the mutual attitude of the Powers concerned, and to remark (*a*) that YUGOSLAVIA has NOT yet entered the Axis orbit, (*b*) that GREECE has NOT yet shown much sign of accepting peace offers, and that (*c*) TURKEY continues, very much, to maintain an attitude of preparedness.

Anxious Ankara. Talking of TURKEY, which is of course inevitable in this connection, it is impossible to withhold admiration for her attitude in an appalling situation. Her security is completely bound up with that of RUSSIA, for if Russian interests are safe, from the Nazi menace, hers are. Yet, in these days, what neutral country knows what other neutral country is its friend? The spirit may be willing enough,

but the flesh—beneath the threat of massed mechanised divisions and busy aerodromes just over the border—is apt to be a bit weak. On the other hand, TURKEY has shown that she is at least convinced that *passive neutrality* these days is as much good as a sick headache, and, from the welcome Mr. Eden and Sir John Dill received, there seems little doubt which of the belligerent nations she knows for a real friend, whatever her doubts about 'neutrals' may be.

More Blether. As usual, when things are hotting up, the world's radio is full of threats and boasting by the Germans. This is part of their technique, and really is meant more to boost the spirits of their own people, than to capture any very widespread credence. Yet, since INDIA receives a lot of this stuff, and there are so many who are either too ignorant or too disaffected not to chatter and moan when they hear it, we attempt an analysis of the Hun publicity campaign of the last month or so. They want:—

(i) to spur the hopes of the German people ;

(ii) to bolster up the Italians ;

(iii) to frighten GREECE ;

(iv) to frighten off TURKEY and YUGOSLAVIA ;

(v) to frighten on JAPAN into definite commitments on the Axis behalf ;

(vi) to disunify and discourage the U. S. A.

Having inwardly digested these more than credible motives, let us note first and foremost that *our* leaders, military and political, *act, and then talk.* After that, remember:—

(i) BRITAIN'S proved adaptability and fundamental strength against ANY kind of attack from ANY quarter.

(ii) The increasing instances of her ability to attack on her own account.

(iii) The unmistakeable and increasing trouble GERMANY is having with 'occupied territories'.

(iv) The practically 'all out' policy of AMERICA ; and, as we have said in preceding paragraphs, the firmness of both TURKEY and GREECE in the face of the spate of Axis threats.

CHANGING SCENES IN THE WORLD DRAMA.

DOINGS OF THE VILLAIN AND HIS FAR EASTERN UNDERSTUDY

WILL YUGOSLAVS RESIST NAZI PRESSURE?

by

Wickham Steed (*In a recent B. B. C. Talk*).

I said lately that the main scene or scenes in the world drama of this war had suddenly shifted from North East Africa to the Balkans and the Far East. During the past few days these scenes have stayed out, though in each of them the plot has been quickened.

As my job is to provide a kind of dramatic criticism on the play, I had better deal with the actors and their parts in the order of their appearance on the stage, so that it may be easier to give a coherent account of what has been going on and perhaps to guess how the plot is likely to work itself out.

A very curious development in the Balkans has been the announcement that Turkey and Bulgaria have concluded an agreement on several points, without prejudice to their contracted agreements with regard to other countries.

The points are that it is an unchanging basis of Turkey's and Bulgaria's foreign policy to abstain from any aggression, that the two governments are inspired by the most friendly intentions towards each other and are determined to maintain and develop their confidence and good neighbourly relations, that the two governments would try to improve trade relations, and that they hope that their newspapers will be inspired by mutual friendship and confidence.

REACTIONS TO THE PACT.

If Germany hadn't been concentrating large forces in Rumania, with the apparent object of sending them through Bulgaria against Greece, and if German technicians had not been filtering into Bulgaria for sometime past, this Turko-Bulgarian agreement would have looked like a very milk and water affair. Even as matters are it may be a milk and water affair.

The funny thing about it is that it was made known simultaneously at Ankara, the Turkish capital, Sofia, the Bulgarian capital and in Berlin. Hitler's newspapers praise it as a great German diplomatic victory, though Ribbentrop's Foreign Office sang a softer note to the effect that the proof of this particular pudding would be in the eating.

The Turks for their part seem quite pleased about it and the Greeks took it as a good thing. In London everybody asked whether our government and the British Staff Officers who recently visited Ankara had been kept in the dark or whether they had known all about it beforehand. The answer to this question was soon

given. Our people had known all about it beforehand and had approved of it. It is meant to promote the kind of solidarity and self defence which Mr. Winston Churchill recently recommended the Balkan countries to practice.

The only snag about it was that the negotiations for the agreement hung fire for reasons that are not quite clear and that the agreement was only announced when the ability, to say nothing of the willingness, of Bulgaria to withstand German pressure had become rather doubtful.

CHANCES OF TURKO-GREEK CO-OPERATION.

So now people wonder whether this Turko-Bulgarian agreement means anything at all, except the public declaration that Turkey does not mean to attack Bulgaria, but this was always understood by good judges of the Balkan outlook; and, as the agreement expressly reaffirms Turkish obligations already entered into, that is to say the Entente between Turkey and Greece and the defensive alliance between Turkey and Great Britain, *it does not close the door for active co-operation between Turkey and Greece*, if Greece should be attacked through Bulgarian territory.

I shouldn't like to wager any heavy sum on the chance that Bulgaria may withstand German pressure, though if I were given to betting, I might risk something on the possibility that Yugoslavia will be less amenable than Bulgaria to offers of threats from Berlin.

YUGOSLAVIA'S RECORD.

It is now some days since the Yugoslav Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary saw Hitler at Berchtesgaden. While many stories have been circulated, mainly through German channels, about the terms which Hitler offered to Yugoslavia there has been no sign of Yugoslavian readiness to accept them or of any change in Yugoslav policy.

As I said recently the record of Bulgaria has not been any too good from the standpoint of Balkan cohesion since 1913, although the record of Serbia, the principal partner in the Southern Slav Union now known as Yugoslavia, has been decidedly better. When Bulgaria was persuaded by Austria-Hungary and Germany in 1913 to attack her Balkan allies, Serbia and Greece, the Serbians and the Greeks stuck together and taught Bulgaria a severe lesson.

In 1914, when Austria-Hungary backed by Germany attacked Serbia, the Serbian army defeated the Austro-Hungarians singlehanded, and only went down a year later when the Austrians, the Germans and the Bulgars sent overwhelming forces against it.

FOUNDATIONS OF NEW STATE.

Then the remnant of the Serbian army found itself in Greece and the Greeks presently joined France and Great Britain in that war. In 1918 the reorganised Serbian army led the advance from Salonika together with Yugoslav volunteers and laid the

foundation for the new Union of Serbia with the Yugoslav lands formerly belonging to Austria-Hungary.

So there is a fairly strong tradition of brotherhood in Arms between the Yugoslavs and the Greeks, even without the stimulating influence of Greek gallantry in the present war.

It is true that the northern territory of Yugoslavia, which includes the broad plains between the rivers Sava and Drava, is not so easy to defend against modern mechanised attack as the mountainous territory of Serbia was; and these broad plains are inhabited chiefly by Croatians whom the Yugoslav government at Belgrade has not always treated particularly well.

CROATIAN OPPOSITION TO GERMANS.

Yet I have reason to believe that in the present Yugoslav government the representatives of the Croatians are strongly opposed to any policy of acquiescence in German demands. I imagine too that the spirit of resistance in the Serbian part of the Yugoslav army is very robust.

Besides the whole Yugoslav people know by bitter experience what German domination would mean. They are a very democratic folk and they are accustomed to have a say in their own affairs. It may be taken for granted that they are under no illusion about what is at stake for them in the present crisis, and that they realise the probable consequences of not standing up to Germany.

However cunningly Hitler may try to persuade them that all he wants is their passive assent to German operations against Greece, they will understand that if the assent is given Yugoslavia will be isolated and almost helpless.

Now there are two possible routes for German armies marching against Greece, and especially against the great Greek and Yugoslav port of Salonika on the Aegean. One, which is difficult, runs through Bulgaria, down the valley of the River Struma; the other which is more suitable lies along the valley of the River Morava through the heart of Serbian territory. If the Germans could pass unhindered along these two routes they might gain a strong position in the Balkans and drive a wedge between Turkey and Greece.

MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSIONS.

It isn't by any means certain that either the Turks or the Greeks would let the Germans have things all their own way, and it is certain that both the Greeks and the Turks would get all the help that the British forces can give them.

This was already plain, but now the arrival of the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden, and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Sir John Dill, in the Middle East makes it still plainer. Mr. Eden and Sir John Dill are no strangers in the Middle East. They have been there before and they have put their heads together with General Wavell who was recently in Athens.

Like Mr. Menzies, the Australian Prime Minister, who has now reached England after his visit to the Australian forces in Libya, Mr. Eden and Sir John Dill will help to co-ordinate a policy of strategy so as to put a spoke in Hitler's wheel.

HIGH STAKES.

One of Hitler's objects is of course to put a mustard plaster on the back of the Greeks before they can turn Mussolini out of Albania. He wants also to get bases for his aircraft on or near the Aegean so as to hamper Great Britian in the Mediterranean, in North Africa and the Middle East.

Hitler is playing for high stakes. We know it as well as he, and, thanks to the alliance with Greece and with Turkey, and to our victories in North Africa, we are not too badly placed to see that he doesn't pocket his stakes without more ado. It is because the stakes are so high that Hitler will do his utmost to extend the area of the conflict and to strain our resources.

WHAT AMERICA THINKS ABOUT THE WAR.
IMPORTANCE OF AID TO ALLIES
BRITISH LABOUR LEADER'S IMPRESSIONS
UNANIMITY OF PUBLIC OPINION IN U. S.

by

Sir Walter Citrine (In a B. B. C. Talk).

Sir Walter Citrine, General Secretary of the British Trade Union Congress, who returned a few days ago from a visit to the United States, broadcast the following talk about his tour.

I went to the United States last November at the invitation of the American Federation of Labour. I was to address their conference which took place in New Orleans, and subsequently I was to go to various cities in the United States to talk to audiences of various kinds.

They wanted me to do two things. The first was to describe to them, without equivocation and as truthfully and sincerely as I could, the exact war situation as we in the labour movement saw it in this country. The second thing was to tell them what the British Labour Movement was doing in the prosecution of that war.

I went on a very extensive tour. Not only did I speak to the Convention at New Orleans, but subsequently I visited cities in practically every part of the United States of America. I went from the South, to the East, from the East I went to the Middle West, to places like Chicago and Omaha, and then I worked my way over that great continent from Omaha to Nevada, Denver, San Fransisco and then subsequently, at the invitation of the Canadian Labour Organisation, I went to Canada.

Therefore what I have to say represents the impressions I have formed of a quite extensive tour lasting nearly three and a half months.

SOMEWHAT MISINFORMED.

The first impression I formed was that the American public generally were somewhat misinformed as to our situation in Great Britain. As far as I could judge the newspapers were faithfully recording as well as they could the situation as their correspondents saw it. But I felt that they were rather tending to exaggerate what was happening.

I was astounded to find that many people in the United States thought that we were on our last legs, that it was impossible for us to go on with this war, that indeed we should be forced to surrender at a very early date.

Well, naturally, I tried to dispel that illusion. A second misconception that I found there was that, once the United States had made up

its mind to give us the maximum of help that it could, it would be a comparatively simple thing to turn their great resources on to the production of war materials. I tried also, as best as I could, to show what a difficult thing it was for a country whose production is organised for peacetime usage, for supplying people with boots and clothing, with motor cars and houses, and all the things that we normally have in peacetime, to switch over to the turning out of aeroplanes and guns and tanks and the building of warships and all the paraphernalia of war.

In the course of this rather extended visit that I made, I tried to show that the only people who thought that Great Britain was in danger of being forced to surrender were people who do not mix with the British people. They were people who did not know the character of the British people.

FAITH IN THE CAUSE.

I did not boast about British characteristics, but I can assure you I never felt more proud of our own people when I heard the high commendation, the admiration and the great esteem in which they were held by the American public generally.

I always tried to say that our people were not built in some heroic mould, that they were just common, ordinary people, trying to meet a great emergency with the courage and the fortitude that it demanded. I pointed out that whether we could endure this ordeal depended, firstly, upon the depth of the faith which we have in our cause. I thought that our British people knew quite plainly that every effort had been made to keep them out of the war, to avoid the world once again being plunged into the terrible holocaust that we saw 25 years ago, and that once we had to come into the war, our people realised that we had no real alternative.

Secondly, I tried to show that our people had built a national unity, deeper and stronger than anything that had existed in our history. One of the first things I pointed out to them was the confidence of the British people in the measure of help which they would get from the United States and the American continent generally in this great struggle.

I spoke a moment ago about the admiration in which our people were held. I can't stress that too much. If I could I could only convey to you the goodwill which was displayed to me on every hand, not because I was who I was, but merely because I was the humble representative of a great people who were enduring hardships and catastrophe even with a cheerfulness and fortitude which commended themselves to the American people as something really heroic.

I think it is right to say that the American people were very deeply impressed with the justice of our cause. There was no hesitation or doubt about whether we were right in resisting Nazi aggression. Everybody seemed to realise that we were,

and they were very ready to promise individually and collectively every help to us, short of actual entry into the war. I said everybody, but naturally there are a few exceptions, and I am speaking of American public opinion as a whole.

RESOLVED TO HELP BRITAIN.

I repeat that the American public generally are convinced that, not only in the interests of Great Britain, but in the interests of America, in the interests of the whole world, it is incumbent upon them to give us every possible help they can.

They don't want to come into war, but at the same time they are determined to help us with all the methods to prosecute the war in which we are involved. In the course of my addresses, I endeavoured to stress our needs in the way of aeroplanes, particularly bombers, ships, anti-aircraft guns and other material. I think it was very fully realised how deep that need was and how urgent it was.

The question of course in which you are interested is: How are those needs being met? What help are we getting? Well I had very great opportunities of visiting many American aeroplane factories, and I can only summarise it in this way.

There is a steady and constant improvement in American production. Last July, there were 78,000 men only employed in the aircraft industry. To-day there are over a quarter of a million, and by June next there will be half a million. I would go so far as to say that the American aircraft industry is expanding at an incredible rate.

Factories are being built at an enormous speed. I saw one of these factories in the course of erection, and I took my hat off to the way in which the Americans were setting about the task.

They have a certain amount of unemployment there. It seems extraordinary to us. But they had eight million unemployed when I was there. Now they have only five million and the number is steadily being reduced. People say: "Well, why not turn them on to aircraft production?"

But you can't simply take people and put them into a field and ask them to make aeroplanes. They have got to have machine tools, very complicated, that take a long time to build. They have to have all the equipment necessary, and so we must expect a certain amount of delay. They are bottlenecks to be avoided. They need, as I said, machine tools, which take a long time to make in some cases. Then they need great masses of aluminium, they need tin, and above all they need trained labour.

Now the people in charge of American production are setting themselves to solve these problems. I had talks with most of them. I had a talk with President Roosevelt and found him very receptive, very sympathetic, and very responsive in every way.

I talked to Mr. Knudsen who is in

charge of war production. I talked to his deputy, Mr. Sidney Hillman, who is a former colleague of my own in the Labour movement. Both these men were optimistic, although I would say quite factual and quite sober in the estimates they formed.

GOODWILL OF LABOUR.

Of course one of the outstanding things needed in the United States for the attainment of that production is the goodwill of the Labour movement. They have two principal organisations over there. They have the American Federation of Labour, and the Congress of Industrial Organisations, commonly known as the C. I. O.

The leaders of both these organisations have declared themselves as being ready to collaborate with the Government in the fullest measure provided always the Government gives them the necessary official recognition in the process. I think that's a perfectly reasonable claim.

We heard of course in the newspapers that there were strikes in the United States. Please don't get an exaggerated opinion about these strikes. They were very small and few and far between, and not sufficient to disturb American industry at all. Remember that the United States is not at war, and it is a very difficult thing for people to be convinced that it is necessary to surrender the right to strike.

Nonetheless, I remember distinctly statements by leaders of the American Federation of Labour that they were ready to make the surrender provided that the Government set up proper machinery for adjustment of disputes.

HOW STRONG ARE NAZIS FOR NEW U-BOAT CAMPAIGN?

NUMBER OF SUBMARINES AVAILABLE.

CAPACITY OF GERMAN SHIPYARDS.

CHANGES OF SATISFACTORY COUNTER-MEASURES.

by

The Naval Correspondent of the ***Sunday Times.***

ONE of the questions being asked all over the country at the moment is "what strength can the Nazis throw into the new U-boat campaign against our shipping?" It is taken for granted that Hitler was speaking the truth for once when he said last week that a new attack would be launched, and that we might expect it early in March or April.

The actual expectation here has been that the effort would begin before March, but the latest figures of shipping losses go to show that activity in the Atlantic has been no greater in the last two weeks than it has been since the beginning of December, and that losses, though quite heavy enough to be a nuisance, have remained below the general average of the 17 months of war.

This means of course that the intensity of the attack has been reduced, and applies not only to U-boats but also to aircraft operating from Western France and in the North Sea, and to the aerial laying of mines. All three factors must be considered in any estimate of the danger to our sea communications, **but the main danger, as all experience so far shows, is from the submarine.**

Some highly exaggerated figures about the output of new U-boats from German yards have been put into circulation, probably from Berlin as a move in the war of nerves, even though the apparent source or the origin is some quite impartial neutral. Totals ranging from 600 to 1,000 craft have been mentioned more than once.

It may be well to say definitely and unequivocally that such figures are fantastic: they are multiplications by five or ten-fold of the possible output of German shipbuilding yards in a twelve months' spurt.

Submarines, even of the small 400-ton type, cannot be mass-produced on the scale of the small motor car or modern battle dress. Hulls and engines may be turned out in large numbers up to the limit of supplies of raw materials, but these are only basic elements in submarine construction.

There are scores of intricate pieces of mechanism necessary which demand careful manufacture, while the internal fitting of these pieces calls for skilled and patient handwork directed by brains. One need only recall the evidence given at the *Thetis* inquiry to see on what minute points the safety and sea-worthiness of a submarine may depend.

The supply of shipyard workers skilled in the intricacies of submarine construction is limited in Germany as elsewhere and there is no evidence so far that the Nazis have been able to recruit willing extra hands from among dockyard workers in Denmark, Norway and Holland, in all of which countries submarine building has been carried on for many years.

Again there is the problem of space. A submarine is not a rowing boat or a motor yacht. The number of building slips on which Germany can lay down a vessel of 200 to 300 feet in length is known pretty accurately to British shipbuilding experts and, even though we were to add to German yards those in the occupied countries, **there is still not to be enough to have taken anything like 600 new keels in the last 12 or even in the past 17 months**.

At a generous calculation there might have been a programme of 150 new boats in hand in recent months. An American naval estimate recently put the figure at 180, and there may have been that number on paper. But between blue print and ship at sea there is a big gulf, as the Imperial German Navy found in the last war, when it was able to complete only half the boats for which contracts were optimistically placed.

We may, I think, expect that **Hitler's new war** on sea-borne commerce **will be launched with between 100 and 120 boats actually available for service.**

At a first glance the number appears formidable, but the number available is not necessarily the number active in the front line. **There are many deductions to be made.**

For example, the Submarine School at Kiel needs several boats for training new crews. It is probable that there are some 4,000 hands undergoing intensive courses of training in the specialised work of handling submarines. To give even a quarter of that number experience under way for a week, some 20 boats must be detached from the fighting fleet and used as *school ships in Baltic. That figure is not a mere guess. It is the actual total of training boats attached to the School at the height of the 1917—1918 campaign.*

Then again the whole number of craft available cannot be maintained at sea at the same time. There must be a rota of boats at sea, boats resting their crews and undergoing extensive repairs.

It stands to reason, if one stops to think, that after a three weeks' cruise in the Atlantic, material, both human and inanimate, needs a period of rest and recovery. Medical men recommend ten days' "stand easy" for the human element after each patrol, and though Nazi taskmasters may drive their human element harder than is medically advisable, even **they cannot get a 30-day working month out of their men for twelve months on end.**

Practical experience shows that approximately one-third of the available craft can be on active service in any one week ; one-third must be resting and one-third undergoing extensive repairs.

If therefore we give the German output of new craft its suggested maximum of 150 boats, the attack can be maintained by only 50 at a time. My own inclination is to put the figure lower even than that, but we shall take the darkest view of the near future.

And that view will cheer the keen and vigorous men of our anti-submarine flotillas, because it means that they will once more have, as they had in September, 1939, plenty of targets to attack. It is quite clear from the figures of ship-building losses that throughout this winter the number of U-boats at sea has been small, because we must allot a proportion of the losses to aircraft attack and to mines.

Although nothing has been said publicly about German losses among their flotillas for many weeks past, it is pretty safe to guess that they have not been as numerous as they were when the Prime Minister was able to tell the country that the rate of sinkings was between two and four weekly. The reason for the decline is the lack of targets and not any falling off in the efficiency of our anti-submarine plans.

It may be that German scientists have found a counter to some of the surprises that we sprang on their U-boats at the start of the war. After all we quickly produced a counter to their magnetic mine, and it would be folly to suppose that they are not capable of producing new defensive ideas for their own particular purposes. But in wartime scientific development proceeds at a heightened pace, and it is by no means to be assumed that we on our side are still relying exclusively to-day on the devices that served us so well in breaking the fury of the first U-boat attacks in the Atlantic 17 months ago.

Take it all in all, Hitler's threat of an intensified campaign against our sea-borne supplies need not inspire us with any more awe than the Kaiser's "unrestricted" campaign in 1917. That caught us unprepared with anti-submarine devices. There may be, indeed there will be, some black weeks in the first vigour of the onslaught. But the ultimate result will be the same as it was in 1918.

EFFECT OF BRITISH SUCCESSES ON FRENCH NORTH AFRICA.

WILL COLONIES RE-ENTER THE WAR?

CHANGE IN BEHAVIOUR OF ARMISTICE COMMISSIONS.

PLANES AND WARSHIPS UNDER GENERAL WEYGAND.

*The **Daily Telegraph** Lisbon Correspondent cabled on March 6:*

THE British successes against the Italians and the prominent part played by the Free French forces have sent a wave of optimism and anticipation running through France's North African possessions.

Everywhere people are talking eagerly of the day when they will be able to re-enter the war and help to liberate France.

Some believe the arrival of Allied forces on the Tunisian frontier will be the signal for a general rising in all French North Africa, and the expulsion of the Axis Armistice Commissions. Others expect a British landing on the Tunisian, Algerian or Moroccan coast. In westward-looking Casablanca there is popular talk even of an American expeditionary force, for everyone believes the United States will soon be a belligerent.

A first-hand account of the situation was given to me by a traveller who has journeyed along the greater part of the coast. In his opinion feeling among troops and civilians is now such that North Africa has ceased to be a pawn in the game of threats and counter-threats between Marshal Pétain and Hitler.

He believes the colonial forces would fight to-morrow if Marshal Petain gave the command, but that they will soon be fighting in any case, whatever Vichy orders.

Still less would the Vichy Government have power to implement any agreement with the Germans involving the handing over of North African bases, though no Frenchman believes Marshal Pétain capable of signing such an agreement, however great the pressure put on him.

My informant emphasised that, while the great mass of the French population, troops and junior officers in North Africa are looking forward to re-entering the war, General Weygand and senior officers are maintaining a rigidly correct attitude.

General Weygand has never said or done anything suggesting any intention to disregard Vichy orders, or to infringe the Armistice conditions. He is devoting himself to training his forces to the highest pitch of military efficiency.

He is continually addressing small intimate gatherings of officers, heartening their spirits and telling them to " be ready."

Among the younger officers, however, pro-British symapthies are freely expressed. On several occasions anti-aircraft batteries at Bizerta were ordered to fire at passing British planes, but the officers commanding the batteries refused to obey.

The traveller was told that similar incidents occurred even when feeling against the British was bitterest, immediately after the Oran naval engagement.

Young officers at Casablanca had told anti-aircraft gun crews to aim at random when ordered to fire at British machines sighted over the coast.

The Italian defeats have had a noticeable effect on the Armistice Commissions in French Africa. At Casablanca members of the Italian Armistice Commission have become, by their own desire, virtually prisoners in their headquarters at Hotel Ampha, which is guarded day and night by the police.

When the Commission first installed itself, the officers used to wear their uniforms, and could constantly be seen walking in the street and dining at restaurants in the town.

They now wear civilian clothes, go out as seldom as possible, and always take their meals at the Hotel.

The General heading the Commission kept a private aeroplane for the use of himself and his staff. One day, when this machine was standing in Casablanca military air field, two French officers and a mechanic got in and flew away. The plane was never seen again, but locally it is believed that the officers flew it to Gibraltar.

It is significant that the Commission did not attempt to exact reprisals for this exploit. Their prestige has fallen so low that the police and civil authorities now take no notice of their orders or representations.

At Oran the Commission's headquarters are the Hotel Continental. Besides the Italians a number of German officers are attached to this Commission, which appears somewhat less demoralised than that at Casablanca.

Nevertheless French junior officers and subordinate officials are deliberately hampering and sabotaging the Commission's activities whenever possible.

Politically Morocco is in a stronger position to resist any German or Italian pressure than the other French North African territories.

The Sultan, who is most popular with the whole population, has warned the Vichy Government that he will not accept the installation of the Axis powers, the cession of naval bases or any change in suzerainty.

He declared that if any such move was attempted he would appeal for the protection of the United States.

The Axis Powers are obviously in a dilemma over the arming of French North Africa. They fear that, if they dismantle all the defences and forbid recruiting and the transfer of war materials from Metropolitan France, they will leave the way open for a pro-British landing, especially now that Italy's naval power in the Mediterranean is broken.

My informant was particularly impressed by the considerable air activity both in Algeria and in Morocco. General Weygand appears to have at his disposal substantial numbers of coastal patrol and scouting aircraft, including Curtiss, De Woitine and Moranes 406.

The traveller also identified several bomber types. These were the Douglas, Glen Martin, Potez 63 and Breguet 690. The fact that these machines are constantly patrolling, and intensive daily training is taking place at Casablanca airfield, proves that there is no shortage of petrol.

A number of naval units were assembled in Casablanca harbour. The largest was the 35,000 ton battleship *Jean Bart* which was towed there in an unfinished state from St. Nazaire just in time to save her from falling into German hands at the Armistice.

Men are working on the ship night and day and she is now almost completed. The vessel lacks armament, however, for her guns were being made at works now under German control. Also in Casablanca harbour are light cruisers and destroyers, as well as a submarine flotilla. Besides these naval units there are numerous transports and freighters, including several vessels of 10,000 and 12,000 tons. All the ships, naval and mercantile, are under constant guard.

Examples of Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East for the period March 10—26, 1941.

A.—BROADCASTES IN ENGLISH.

Between the lines.

Berlin hopefully pretends to find, in a B. B. C. talk by Mr. Vernon Bartlett on March 9, "a hint at a decision by the British Government in favour of leaving Greece in the lurch".

Needless to say, Mr. Bartlett's broadcast contained no such hint, but it is nothing new for Nazi propagandists to pretend that Britain will let the Greeks down—they prophesied as much when the Italians first invaded Greece. So did the Italians, at first—but they very soon changed their tune : as long ago as the second week in January the Rome radio was saying: "**By now, the whole of the Greek Army is organised by the British—the artillery is British, the air force is British, the command is British**".

But perhaps the Germans' slanders against Britain are intended to cover up the fact that it is they who have let the Italians down. For weeks Hitler stood by and watched Mussolini being thrashed out of Greece, as no big nation has ever before been thrashed by a small one ; and now German aid for Italy looks like being too late. The *Luftwaffe*, operating from Sicily, has been powerless to stop strong British convoys from reaching the Greeks ; and the presence on the Graeco-Bulgarian frontier of enormous Nazi forces has not prevented the Greeks from successfully repulsing, during the past week, the heavy Italian counter-offensive ordered by Mussolini himself.

Just another prophesy.

The German wireless has been giving prominence to Dr. Goebbels' boast to Spanish journalists last week that " Germany will finish the war before the year is over ".

Has Paul Josef forgotten sundry other prophecies emanating from the Reich since war began ? Here are some of them :—

Hitler was to dictate peace from Buckingham Palace on August 15, 1940.

On May 28, 1940, the Germans announced : " it is now **impossible** for Great Britain to withdraw her troops from Dunkirk".

August 7, 1940 : "The sinking and destroying of the whole of British shipping will become a matter of **two months**".

August 15, 1940 : "The collapse of England may come **within 60 days**".

Lord Haw-Haw himself gave the answer to all these predictions when the 60 days were up (October 12, 1940): "**On the whole it is better to avoid predictions concerning the immediate future. They are much too easily shattered**". Dr. Goebbels please note.

Footnote on food.

Berlin on March 11 quotes Mr. Herbert Hoover as denying that the food supplies he is anxious to send to Belgium would find their way to Germany, who has "made it clear that she herself is anxious to solve the problem of Belgian supplies".

No doubt she is—**which is all the more reason why Britain, who happens to be at war with Germany, should do nothing to relieve her enemy's anxieties.**

B.—BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES.

R. A. F's Technical Superiority.

The German broadcast in Hindustani and Arabic proudly announced on March 11 that German and Italian air power was bigger than that of Britain's and that, as a result of this, Britain could not resist the Axis air attacks on Malta.

It is true that the Axis air forces still enjoy superiority in numbers, but the incontrovertible fact remains that the R. A. F. has technical and moral superiority. This is conclusively proved by the fact that during the past 17 months, in two theatres of war **the R. A. F. destroyed some 4,250 German and 700 Italian aircraft for the loss of fewer than 1,800 British planes**.

As for Britain's alleged inability to resist enemy attacks on Malta (which is still undaunted after no fewer than 400 air raids) the fact is that during one recent German raid on Malta, on March 5, in which the Nazis used over 100 planes, **the British destroyed 16 German machines and damaged many more, for the loss of only one R. A. F. fighter**.

Axis broadcast for home and abroad.

The Axis, has evolved a definite technique in this matter. Broadcasting **from Rome to Malta** recently an Italian news bulletin referred to the British in India, Palestine, Egypt and Sudan and said : "After years of occupation the

British are still living like prisoners. The quarters where they live have iron bars and after sundown no one may come in or go out. In India no European can go out after dark". Naturally this news could not be included in the Italian broadcast **to India** !

Britain's food position.

According to the Nazis' Hindustani broadcast of March 13, Britain is experiencing shortage of food-stuffs on account of the intensification of naval warfare. The true fact, however, is that on March 9 Britain's Food Ministry was in a position to announce several increases in the nation's rations.

The amount of meat available had to be reduced during the advance on Benghazi, owing to the special need for shipping services in the Mediterranean; but now the original meat allowance has been restored. **Vegetables are abundant, eggs more plentiful than formerly and the butter ration has been increased simultaneously with the meat ration.**

Japanese uneasiness over Matsuoka's journey.

The German news forecast on March 12 that Mr. Matsuoka's " sensational" visit to Berlin and Rome would ensure the final victory of the Axis. Actually some uneasiness over Mr. Matsuoka's journey to Europe is evident in the comments of the influential Japanese newspaper, *Asahi Shimbun*. It states: "It is widely hoped that this envoy will not run counter to his imperial mission and will act after calm and mature deliberation".

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

WAR FILMS

The War Information Bureau have great pleasure in announcing that with the sanction and kind assistance of the Darbar their Lecturers will shortly be able to take round with them a series of Film programmes illustrative of the War in its various aspects.

These programmes consist in part of actual cinematography in war zones by the 20th Century Fox Film Corporation, and partially of cognate Indian subjects photographed by the organisation set up for the purpose by the Government of India, through the Bombay Government. There are three separate pictures in each programme, and the Bureau feel sure that they will prove a welcome addition to the lectures, and to the Weekly Bulletin.

The War Fund Entertainments Committee have been good enough to present the Bureau with a Station-wagon in which to convey the projectors, screens and films to the lecture centres, but in order to facilitate the working of the new lecture-programme necessary to provide some sixty centres in the State with a fresh cinema-show once every month, we particularly request the public of Pudukkottai to :—

(*a*) note that the usual time of the lecture will be **6.00 p. m.** or **6 30 p. m.** (as notified).

(*b*) **be absolutely punctual** at these lectures, since the War Information Bureau van will have to serve two centres on same evening.

Practical experience proves that at least one thousand persons can see these films with comfort, so when you hear of a Lecture announced for your village,

COME.........BUT BE PUNCTUAL.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES.

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

1941—

LECTURE XXXVII.

March	...29, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
	30, Sunday ...	Muslim Association, Pudukkottai.		5.00 p. m.
		Thiruvarangulam	...	5.30 p. m.
		Kothakottai	...	6.30 p. m.
	31, Monday ...	Kolavoipatti	...	6.00 p. m.
		Vennavalkudi	...	6.30 p. m.
April	... 1, Tuesday ...	Kadayakkudi	...	6.00 p. m.
		Mirattunilai	...	6.30 p. m.
	2, Wednesday	Melur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Pillamangalam	...	6.30 p. m.
	3, Thursday ...	Teachers' Association, Pudukkottai.		3.30 p. m.
		Vellanur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Sembattoor	...	6.30 p. m.
	4, Friday ...	Odukkur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Nanguppatti	...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE XXXVIII.

5, Saturday...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
6, Sunday ...	Narthamalai	...	6.30 p. m.
7, Monday ...	Narthamalai	...	6.30 p. m.
8, Tuesday ...	Arimalam	...	6.00 p. m.
	Kilanilai	...	6.30 p. m.
9, Wednesday	Kiranur	...	6.00 p. m.
	Nanjur	...	6.30 p. m.
10, Thursday	Perungalur	...	6.00 p. m.
	Adanakkottai	...	6.30 p. m.
11, Friday ...	Poovarasagudi	...	6.00 p. m.
	Venkatakulam	...	6.30 p. m.

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The State War Fund Entertainments Committee,
with the authority and under the auspices of the Darbar

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